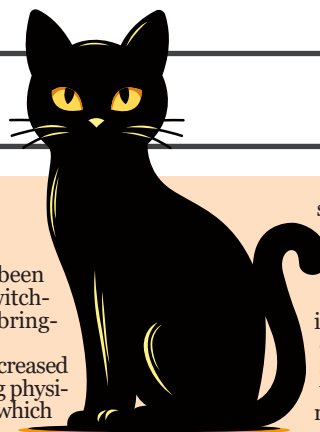




A SPANISH city has banned the adoption of black cats from rescue shelters amid fears the felines could fall victim to 'sinister' Halloween rituals. Officials in Terrassa, Catalunya, have opted to prohibit the fostering of all black cats from October 6 to November 10, believing they could be hurt or used as props for scary events. It comes despite deputy mayor

BLACK CATS BANISHED

Noel Duque admitting there had been no record of cruelty towards them at Halloween time, despite a rise in adoptions in October. However, there have been incidents in other areas, with warnings issued by animal welfare groups.

Black cats have long been associated with witchcraft and viewed as bringing bad luck. "We are aware of increased adoptions and putting physical appearance first, which

seems suspicious," Duque said. "At the very least, we want to prevent people from adopting on a whim or because it is fashionable. And we want to ensure there are no macabre practices

behind them." He added: "If you want to adopt a black cat, it will have to be after Halloween." Terrassa currently has over 100 cats housed in shelters, 12 of which are black. Terrassa Animal Welfare welcomed the move saying it would 'avoid potential risk situations'.

More ketchup than salsa

An expat's escapades are being

adapted into Spain-based TV sitcom (but don't mention Eldorado)

By Walter Finch

Life on Mars and The Crown, filming got off to a good start this autumn.

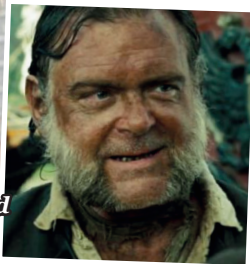
McNally is joined by Sandra Dickinson, who played Trillian in cult 1981 BBC series The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

The sitcom is based on the life of author Joe Cawley, who came up with the name, while running a bar in Tenerife in the 1990s.

Originally calling it More Ketchup than Salsa, he soon realised the shortened name was more appropriate.

"I was watching this drunken bunch of Brits trying

McNally, also known for roles in



STARRING: Dickinson and McNally



PARADISE: But it certainly wasn't for author Cawley and wife Joy

a stall at the Bolton fish market for the Canary Islands.

"We didn't know the language, the culture, or the business," he continues. "We just thought, why not? Anything would've been better than stinking of fish all day."

He eventually rewrote it as a TV screenplay based on the idea of 'the expat dream gone wrong', transplanting the location from Tenerife to Marbella.

"It's a story that could be set anywhere, but Marbella makes sense - it's got more money, more visibility," he explains. Ketchup will explore cultural clashes, expat misadventures, and the illusions of life abroad. "Taking your problems somewhere else doesn't make them vanish - they get off the plane

with you," said Cawley. "Ultimately, paradise is in the mind."

Test filming began on a yacht in Puerto Banus and in Canceleda, in Estepona, earlier this month, with backing already pledged locally and from further afield.

It is hoped the sitcom - if eventually commissioned - will not sink like Eldorado, which was cancelled after just one series back in 1993.

Also filmed on the Costa del Sol, it is often dubbed the 'biggest soap opera disaster' in history, with the BBC scrapping it after just one year.

It cost over €12 million to make with the main set near Coin alone costing €2 million.



FURRY ATTRACTION

WIN TICKETS

GET ready for a dose of post-punk brilliance as The Psychedelic Furs prepare to rock Malaga and Valencia. The British indie rock legends will be hitting Spain for an eight-date run in November.

The Furs - who once headlined Glastonbury - are heading to Malaga on November 18, bringing their unique brand of post-punk energy to La Trinchera for a one-night-only performance. Valencia fans are in for a treat as well, with a second show at the stunning new Auditorio Roig Arena on November 22.

The tour includes stops in Barcelona, Santander, Vigo, Sevilla, Pamplona, and Madrid.

STOP PRESS : Watch our website for a competition to win free tickets to see the Furs in Malaga. You will need to be registered with us at www.theolivepress.es

MULLINS IT OVER

LEARNING TO TANGO WITH SPANISH BUREAUCRATS... AND WHEN THAT FAILS, GET BACK TO WORK

Dances with fools

I'VE said it before: life in Spain takes a bit of getting used to. The rhythm, the *mañana* mindset, the endless forms and stamps - especially if you're coming from an Anglo-Saxon world of efficiency and rigid timetables.

But after years of stressing myself out trying to bend the system to my will, I've finally learned to stop shouting into the bureaucratic void. In Spain, if *la computadora dice no*, it's not the end of the road. It's just a detour. You breathe, stay polite, and find another way. Think like a Spaniard.

At least, that's the theory. Then I heard about Michael. You might have read his story in the last issue of *the Olive Press*. Michael Coy, a British expat, did his 15 years of hard graft here in Spain, expecting - rightly - to qualify for a pension. Only problem? One of his old bosses had decided to get creative with the books and listed him as a part-timer. Fewer hours, less contribution, no pension. When he finally reached retirement age, Michael (pictured above right)

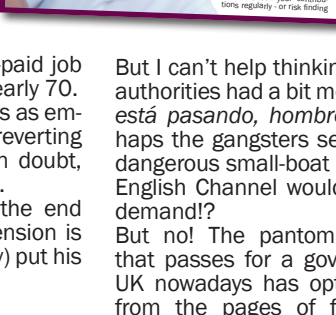
found he was short by 147 working days. Lawyers told him he could sue. Sure, it might take five years, cost around €3,000, and he still might lose.

So what did he do? Like a man with no other choice, he put his shoulder back to the wheel and took on a low-paid job to make up the shortfall. At nearly 70. Now, I'm not sure if that counts as embracing the Spanish way or reverting to a very British instinct: if in doubt, knuckle down and keep going. Either way, he got there in the end - and hats off to him. The pension is now sorted, and he can (finally) put his feet up.

But it got me thinking... Say what you like about Spanish bureaucracy (and trust me, I often do), but one thing they don't do is hand out cash to anyone who strolls in waving a foreign passport. Nor are hotel rooms and meal tickets handed out like sweeties at a village fiesta. Michael had to earn his right to that pension - and he did.

At last I am a retired man!

SEPTEMBER 2025 marked a personal landmark: after literally years of chasing it, I've finally secured my Spanish pension. I'm not optimistic. Some of you reading this won't need to go through the wringer. Maybe you moved to Spain with a tidy nest egg, or you're banked on a lottery win. Good for you. But for the rest of us - those who've worked, grafted and flown, likely a range of odd jobs here - it's a different story. To qualify for a Spanish pension, you need work - i.e. taxed, registered employment. And no, your cash-in-hand gig, fruit machine, or pool table in British bars doesn't count in the eyes of the Hacienda. To find the tax office, to file a return, to get the pension, it's a different story.



But I can't help thinking that if the UK authorities had a bit more of a '¡Eso no está pasando, hombre!' attitude perhaps the gangsters selling illegal and dangerous small-boat crossings of the English Channel would see a drop in demand!?

But no! The pantomime production that passes for a government in the UK nowadays has opted for a policy from the pages of festive-favourite, Dick Whittington and his Cat, promising 'streets paved with gold'. The only difference I can see here is on arrival young Dick was sadly disappointed, unlike the 30,000 asylum seekers currently living in hotels paid for by British taxpayers. And people still ask me why I abandoned the UK for Spain!

Streaming in

SINGER Ed Sheeran will see his latest album *Play* feature on FC Barcelona's shirt during the El Clasico clash against Real Madrid this weekend. The collaboration is part of the club's ongoing sponsorship with Spotify. Sheeran, a lifelong football fan, called the moment 'unbelievable,' while Barca striker Robert Lewandowski praised the move, saying Sheeran's songs are a dressing-room favourite.

Only 1,899 'match-quality' shirts will be produced, with 22 signed by players and 11 by Sheeran himself.

The Ipswich season ticket holder becomes the first British male solo artist to appear on the iconic shirt, following artists like Drake and Coldplay.

With over 92 million monthly Spotify listeners, he remains one of the world's most-streamed musicians.



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